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**A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE**

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RELATING TO EXEMPTIONS TO PERMITS FOR SPORTS ACTIVITIES.

BE IT ORDAINED by the People of the City and County of Honolulu:

**SECTION 1. Purpose and findings.** The purpose of this ordinance is to establish certain exemptions from permitting for use of City parks facilities.

The Council finds that there is a profound public health benefit for youth living within the City and County of Honolulu ("City") that is provided by organized sports. The Centers for Disease Control ("CDC") notes that regular physical activity can help children and adolescents improve cardiorespiratory fitness, build strong bones and muscles, control weight, and reduce the risk of developing health conditions such as heart disease and obesity.

The benefits to youth provided by organized sports activities are not limited to physical health, but also extend to mental health. The CDC further notes that students who are physically active tend to have better grades, school attendance, cognitive performance, and classroom behaviors.

The Council finds that there are instances where organized youth sports activities have been disrupted due to the Department of Parks and Recreation ("DPR") denying permits for use of City parks facilities. These organized youth sports activities have been operating at athletic fields on DPR parks for decades, and are unexpectedly at a point of losing their home fields of play due to the denial of permits.

In the interest of public health and for the benefit of the youth of the City, the Council finds that there is a need to develop a legacy use for organized youth sports on athletic fields that have been utilized by these teams for decades.

**SECTION 2.** Section 10-1.3, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 1990 ("Permits"), as amended by Ordinance 20-42, Ordinance 21-8, and Ordinance 21-34, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

- "(a) Required. Any person using the recreational and other areas and facilities under the control, maintenance, management, and operation of the department of parks and recreation must first obtain a permit from the department for the following uses:
- (1) Picnic groups, consisting of 50 or more persons.
  - (2) Camping.



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- (3) Sports activities, including but not limited to professional athletic contests, tournaments, or demonstration events, and professional surfing contests conducted by a league, organization, association, group, or individual.

A sports activity that requires a permit as provided under this section is subject to the following restrictions, in addition to any other conditions imposed by the rules adopted by the director:

- (A) **Gender Equity.** The department of parks and recreation shall not give preferential treatment to requests for permits for male activities over requests for permits for female activities. This requirement does not apply if:
- (i) The sports activity is limited to one gender;
  - (ii) The rules governing a particular sports activity expressly prohibit the participation of a particular gender; and
  - (iii) Permits are made available on an equal basis for a similar activity with participants of another gender or to participants of all genders.
- (B) **Issuance Standards for Permits.** The department of parks and recreation shall uniformly treat each application, based upon the facts presented, free from improper or inappropriate considerations and from unfair discrimination and shall exercise no other discretion over the issuance of a permit under this section, except as provided in this section and in the departmental rules.
- (C) **Review.** Upon the department's refusal to issue a permit, the applicant for the permit is entitled to request a hearing before the director of parks and recreation or a hearings officer appointed by the director to be held within 30 days after the date of the refusal. The hearing will be subject to HRS Chapter 91. In the review, the department's decision will be upheld in the absence of a finding of abuse of discretion.

Any organized youth sport that is conducted or offered by a public educational institution recognized by the State of Hawai'i Department of Education that occurs on an athletic field under the control, maintenance, and management of the department of parks and recreation, does not require a permit, provided that the organized youth sport has been



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regularly played by students of that institution on that athletic field for more than 25 years. Such status is considered a legacy use and shall be so designated by the director. Any legacy use must provide the department advance notice for use of the athletic field, as determined by the director.

- (4) Recreational activities, including nonprofit fundraising activities, sponsored by community organizations, associations, groups, or individuals.
- (5) Expressive Activities.
  - (A) Expressive activities held at Ala Moana Regional Park or in the following areas of Kapiolani Regional Park require a permit when the expressive activity involves 150 or more persons:
    - (i) The triangle area fronting the Honolulu Zoo bordered by Kapahulu Avenue and Monsarrat Avenue, but excluding the Honolulu Zoo;
    - (ii) The area within Kapiolani Regional Park bordered by Monsarrat Avenue, Paki Avenue, Poni Moi Road, and Kalakaua Avenue;
    - (iii) The Waikiki playground area bordered by Monsarrat Avenue, Leahi Avenue, and Paki Avenue, generally rectangular in shape;
    - (iv) The Leahi area bordered by Leahi Avenue, Noela Street, and Paki Avenue, generally rectangular in shape; or
    - (v) The archery range area bordered by Paki Avenue and Poni Moi Road, generally rectangular in shape.
  - (B) For all other public parks, and areas of Kapiolani Regional Park outside of the areas specified in Section 10-1.3(a)(5)(A), a permit is required when the expressive activity involves 75 or more persons.
  - (C) This subdivision does not apply if the expressive activity is due to a spontaneous event occasioned by news or affairs coming into public knowledge within 48 hours of such expressive activity, in which case the organizer must provide written notice to the city as soon as practicable prior to such expressive activity.



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- (6) Meetings or gatherings or other similar activity other than expressive activities held by organizations, associations, or groups.
- (7) Nonrecreational, public service activities, meetings, and gatherings other than expressive activities held by organizations, communities, or groups.
- (8) Right of entry into parks for installation of utilities or construction work.
- (9) The playing of musical instruments as solo or two or more instruments that fall within the standards described in paragraphs (A), (B), and (C):
  - (A) Musical instruments that are limited to two octaves or less, including but not limited to the following musical instruments:
    - (i) Tuba;
    - (ii) Tympani;
    - (iii) Maracas;
    - (iv) Uliuli;
    - (v) Castanets;
    - (vi) Tambourine; or
    - (vii) Percussion instruments in which a human hand or drumsticks are used to create sounds therefrom.
  - (B) Musical instruments that when played do not exceed the sound pressure level established in Section 10-1.2(b)(8).
  - (C) Musical instruments that are used or played continuously without a regular hourly break of 30 minutes, or for more than six hours within a day.



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- (D) The use or the playing of a musical instrument that requires a permit as provided under this section is subject to the following restrictions, in addition to any other conditions imposed by the rules adopted by the director; provided that the restrictions do not apply to the playing of musical instruments in conjunction with expressive activities:
- (i) **Issuance Standards for Permits.** The department of parks and recreation shall uniformly treat each application, based upon the facts presented, free from improper or inappropriate considerations and from unfair discrimination and shall exercise no other discretion over the issuance of a permit under this section, except as provided in this section and in the departmental rules.
  - (ii) **Judicial Review.** Upon the department's refusal to issue a permit, the applicant for such permit is entitled to a review by the circuit court within 30 days after the date of the refusal. In the review, the department's decision will be upheld in the absence of a judicial finding of abuse of discretion.
  - (iii) **Restrictions.** The use or the playing of a musical instrument that requires a permit as provided hereunder is subject to the following restrictions, in addition to any other conditions imposed by the rules adopted by the director:
    - (aa) **Time:** Only between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. daily;
    - (bb) **Place:** The playing of such instruments must be restricted to a facility especially constructed for such purpose, such as the bandstand at Kapiolani Regional Park or other areas within the park that are clearly designated in the permit; and
    - (cc) **Manner:** During the hours mentioned in clause (aa) of this subparagraph, every half-hour of playing period must immediately be followed by a 15-minute break or every one hour of playing period must immediately be followed by a half-hour break; provided that at no time may there be any continuous playing exceeding an hour.



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- (iv) Duration of Permit. The duration of a permit issued pursuant to this subdivision cannot exceed one month.
- (10) Hang gliding.
- (11) Commercial activities; provided that the proposed commercial activities under the permit are consistent with the use of the park under consideration, subject to reasonable limitations on the size of the groups, and the time and area within which the event is permitted, and subject to department of parks and recreation rules and regulations regarding the solicitation of business, advertising, and commercial promotional activities.
- No permit may be issued for commercial activities, including permits for recreational stops by commercial tour companies, at Kailua Beach Park and Kalama Beach Park, except as otherwise provided in this chapter for commercial filming activities.
- No permit may be issued for commercial activities, including permits for recreational stops by commercial tour companies, but excluding permits for commercial filming activities and permits for shore water events, at Waiale'e Beach Park, Sunset Beach Park, 'Ehukai Beach Park, Pūpūkea Beach Park, Waimea Bay Beach Park, Haleiwa Ali'i Beach Park, Kaiaka Bay Beach Park, and the undeveloped portions of Haleiwa Beach Park adjacent to Pua'ena Point; and city-owned or -operated beach rights-of-way and easements from Sunset Point to Kaiaka Point.
- No permit may be issued for recreational stops by commercial tour companies at:
- (A) Waimanalo Beach Park, Kaiona Beach Park, Kaupo Beach Park, Makapuu Beach Park, and Bellows Field Beach Park; and
- (B) Hūnānāniho from 6:30 p.m. on Fridays through 6:30 a.m. on Mondays, and on all state and federal holidays; provided that no more than five permits may be issued for recreational stops by commercial tour companies at Hūnānāniho, and such permits may only be issued to commercial tour companies for recreational stops by tour vans or vehicles that seat no more than 15 passengers.
- (12) Constructing, utilizing, placing, occupying, or in any other manner, situating any tent."



**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

ORDINANCE  
BILL 5 (2022)

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SECTION 3. New ordinance material is underscored. When revising, compiling, or printing this ordinance for inclusion in the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, the Revisor of Ordinances need not include the underscoring.

SECTION 4. This ordinance takes effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY:

*Tony Wata*

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

**JAN 19 2022**

Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Deputy Corporation Counsel

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

RICK BLANGIARDI, Mayor  
City and County of Honolulu